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# u.s. coast guard news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Coast Guard initiates Sea Marshal program**

### ***Armed teams escort large vessels in San Diego Bay***

SAN DIEGO – The Coast Guard is placing armed boarding teams on commercial deep draft vessels moving into, out of or within San Diego Bay.

The teams' mission is to ensure each vessel is in the crew's proper control and under the direction of the accompanying San Diego Port Pilot during any movements. The program is one of the Coast Guard's initiatives intended to ensure the safety and security of the vessels and our port.

The teams started the program on Friday evening with the departure of two car carrier vessels, the Aquarius Ace and the Arcadia Highway. Over the weekend the teams brought in three cruise ships, the Statendam, the Seven Seas Mariner and the Rhapsody of the Seas. The program will continue indefinitely.

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**USCG initiates Sea Marshals program in San Diego Bay / 2 - 2 - 2 / 17 Oct 01**

The Coast Guard Reserve is providing much of the teams staffing. Eventually this program will be run and fully staffed by Reservists.

San Diego's program is similar the Sea Marshall program in San Francisco Bay. These programs were created in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Approximately 650 commercial deep draft vessels enter San Diego Bay every year. These vessels include cruise ships, car carriers and freight ships.

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